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Congressional Eye Will Be Kept On CIA, McCone Debate Implies

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WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 — The Senate indicated this week that the Central Intelligence Agency will undergo increasing congressional scrutiny.

This was implied in the unexpectedly spirited debate on the confirmation of John A. McCone as CIA director and the subsequent 71-to-12 vote. Most observers had expected no more than three or four nays.

Some of the opposition was against McCone himself. Senators Robert C. Byrd (Dem.) West Virginia, and Frank J. Lausche (Dem.), Ohio, expressed concern about possible conflicts of interest. Senators Francis Case (Rep.), South Dakota, and Margaret Chase Smith (Rep.), Maine, had expressed similar misgivings in committee hearings.

Byrd said McCone should have been required to sell his stock holdings, including more than \$1,000,000 in the Standard Oil Co. of California, just as Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara had to sell his stock holdings. McNamara was not permitted to put his holdings in an irrevocable trust, as McCone did as chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and as he offered to do again.

Denounced Scientists.

A different criticism of McCone was raised by Senator Ernest Gruening (Dem.), Alaska. He recalled McCone's denunciation of 10 scientists at California Institute of Technology who supported Adlai E. Stevenson's proposal in 1956 that the United States take a lead in halting nuclear weapons tests.

"Mr. McCone denounced these scientists violently, showing a passion which certainly does not reveal the degree of objectivity which should be so essential in the evaluation of reports which will be coming in from all over the world," Gruening said.

One of McCone's supporters, Senator John O. Pastore (Dem.), Rhode Island, gave unintentional backing to Gruening's view by saying, approvingly, that if McCone had had his way, "we would have had a resumption of underground testing long before President Kennedy was compelled to do so."

The Senators took at face value McCone's denial of reports that he demanded the dismissal of the 10 scientists.

Indicates Lack of Confidence.

Others among the opposition, notably Senator J. William Fulbright (Dem.), Arkansas, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, indicated lack of confidence in the agency itself.

Fulbright unexpectedly joined Senator Eugene McCarthy (Dem.), Minnesota, in contending that McCone's foreign policy views should have been examined by the Senate. Behind this is a belief that CIA through the years has become far more than an instrument of the National Security Council, that it has come to devise and advocate its own policies and projects, as a sort of secret second State Department.

When CIA operations have been considered successful, there has been little complaint. The overthrow of the Communist-line Arbenz regime in Guatemala in 1954 has been generally considered a success in this country, although many Latin Americans point to it as an example of unjustified United States intervention in the domestic affairs of another American republic.

Action in Laos.

More questions were asked when the CIA supported anti-Communist elements in Laos against neutralist elements there in an effort to make that country a bastion of Western Alliance. That effort has been abandoned, and the United States is seeking to restore Laos to stable neutrality.

The abortive Cuban invasion last April, financed, planned and led by CIA, was by far the greatest failure in the agency's history.

Reports that President Kennedy blamed CIA for the failure led to expectation of a major reorganization of the agency. Any plans for a major reorganization appear to have been dropped.

Two main questions about CIA's future under McCone remain unanswered. The first is whether CIA will serve as a disciplined tool of national policy.

On the executive side, CIA is watched by the Killian committee, which reports at least twice a year to the President. McCone also has named a three-

organization.

Kennedy Memorandum.

A recent memorandum from President Kennedy to McCone assigns him the task of establishing necessary policies and procedures for co-ordination of foreign intelligence. The President said McCone was to do this "as directed by the President and the National Security Council."

This language appeared to indicate a degree of supervision by the National Security Council, but McCone said in the hearings that no agency exercised supervisory control over CIA.

By law, the agency reports to the National Security Council, and the National Security Council takes a very considerable cognizance—it has in the past—over the operations of the agency," McCone said. "But I wouldn't term it that that was supervisory."

On the legislative side, the CIA director has in the past met several times a year with House and Senate subcommittees of the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, as well as with other committees at their request.

Meetings last year totaled 22.

including sessions with the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee in its inquiry into the Cuban invasion fiasco. McCone promised to continue responding to any calls from the four subcommittees and bringing to their attention anything that the agency feels "should properly be considered by them."

Senator Leverett Saltonstall (Rep.), Massachusetts, for many years a member of two of the subcommittees assigned to meet with the CIA director, said he felt no information had ever been concealed from them. Continuing his praise of the relationship, Saltonstall said, "I would do it."

An implication of the debate, however, was that any new public embarrassment by the agency will give rise to new demands for creation of a watchdog joint committee, modeled after the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. A Senate bill has been introduced by Senator McCarthy.

Unanswered Question.

The second question that remains unanswered is whether McCone's own views on national policy will be a help or a hindrance to Administration policies.

As recently as the hearings

last month, McCone said he was a "strong supporter of the concept of massive retaliation," a concept that was generally discredited in the last years of the Eisenhower Administration and has not been revived by President Kennedy.

Among persons involved in foreign policy, there is considerable belief that McCone's hard line in the cold war could conflict with the Administration's emphasis on social and economic reform as an offset to Communist appeals.

This policy has taken its most definite form in the Alliance for

Progress program in Latin America. It is in Latin America where the CIA is considered least likely to work effectively for radical reform, since the CIA operation there comprises largely former Federal Bureau of Investigation agents, held over from World War II when the FBI was in charge of intelligence in Latin America.

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